

REMARKS

This is submitted as a full and complete response to the outstanding Official Letter. The Examiner has required a three-way restriction grouping the claims as Group I, claims 1-18 and 23-37; Group II, claims 19-22 and 38-40; and Group III, claims 41-44. The applicant herewith elects to continue prosecution on the claims of Group I, namely claims 1-18 and 23-337. This election is made without traverse.

Furthermore, the Examiner has required an election of Species should the Group I claims be elected, setting the species as Species A, casting a facing and a cementitious second material on top of the facing material as represented in claim 23 and Species B, applying a retarder as represented in claim 34. The applicant elects to continue with Species A and therefore it is assumed that examination will be carried out on claims 1-18 and 23-33.

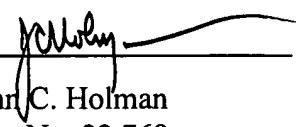
It is assumed that if a generic or subgeneric claim is found allowable the non-elected species claims that depend therefrom would also be found allowable. The non-elected claims are retained in this case pending decision to file divisional applications.

Early and favorable action on the merits of the elected claims is courteously awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

JACOBSON HOLMAN PLLC

By _____


John C. Holman
Reg. No. 22,769
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20004-2201
(202) 638-6666

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